WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for processing a packet received from a physical layer by a MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet to be transmitted to a switch, the

5   method comprising the steps of:

detecting error while receiving the packet from the physical layer;

upon failure to detect the error, transmitting the received packet to the switch; and,

upon detection of the error, stopping the transmission of the received packet to the switch.

10

2.   A method for processing a packet received from a physical layer by a MAC layer of an Ethernet, wherein the received packet is stored in a memory for an eventual transmission to a switch, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet from the physical layer and storing the received packet in the

15   memory;

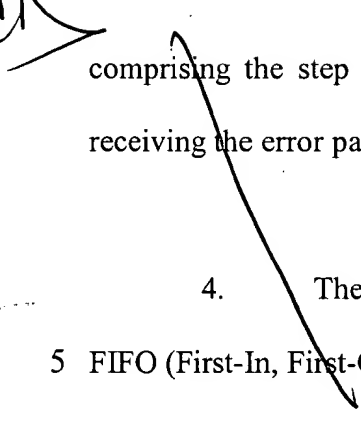detecting for error while receiving the packet;

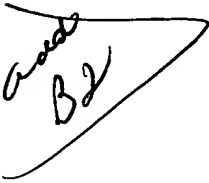upon detection of the error, stopping the storage of the received packet in the memory; and,

transmitting a first signal indicating an occurrence of the error and a second signal

20   indicating an end of the received packet to the switch.

3.   The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the method further

comprising the step of preparing to receive a next packet from the physical layer after receiving the error packet.

4.   The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said memory comprises a

5 FIFO (First-In, First-Out) memory.